ISO 639-2 REGISTRATION AUTHORITY
Library of Congress
Network Development and MARC Standards Office
Washington, DC 20540-4402
E-mail: iso639-2@loc.gov
Phone: +1 202 707 6237
FAX: +1 202 707 0115

APPLICATION FOR REQUESTING CHANGE IN LANGUAGE CODES IN ISO 639- 2 (B) – CODES FOR THE REPRESENTATION OF NAMES OF LANGUAGES – PART 2: ALPHA 3 CODES – BIBLIOGRAPHIC CODES

The National and University Library of Croatia, Zagreb, and the Croatian Standards Institute (HZN), Zagreb, and the National Library of Serbia, Belgrade, and the Institute for Standardization of Serbia (ISS), Belgrade, have decided to apply together and to request the change of languages codes for Croatian and Serbian language for bibliographic use in ISO 639-2 (B) – Codes for the representation of names of languages – Part 2: Alpha - 3 codes.

The ISO 639-2 (B) is not changed from the year 1998. The code for Croatian language is still **scr** – Serbo-Croatian-Roman and the code for Serbian language is still **scc** – Serbo-Croatian-Cyrillic. This situation is not convenient for all four mentioned institutions, as well as for our languages and especially for our bibliographic databases and library catalogs.

Main reasons for our request are:

1 The official language in the Republic of Croatia is CROATIAN - HRVATSKI in the vernacular.
The official language in the Republic of Serbia is SERBIAN - SRPSKI in the vernacular.

2 The language names and the **2-letter codes** for Croatian **(hr)** and for Serbian **(sr)** were already included in the first edition of the international standard for codes for the representation of names of languages ISO 639:1988.

3 We propose **hrv** as the **3-letter code** for Croatian and **srp** for Serbian for bibliographic **and** terminological purposes (They have already been defined for terminological purposes in ISO 639-2 - the usage of one code for both purposes would be much simpler and unambiguous).

4 Our proposal is based on the fact that according to the ISO 639-2, **the first criteria** for selecting the language code is the preference of country using the language (Clause 4.1).

5 The language codes have also to be derived from the language name - CROATIAN or HRVATSKI and SERBIAN or SRPSKI (Clause 4.1).

6 The language code **hrv** for Croatian would be not in contradiction with codes for the representation of names of countries (ISO 3166-1:1997, CROATIA – **hr**).

7 The code **hrv** has already been used in library and information community in Croatia (e.g. the onine bibliographic database of the National and University Library in Zagreb).

STANDARD	ISO 639-1:2002 Alpha 2 codes	ISO 639-2:1998 (B) Alpha 3 codes – bibliographic codes	ISO 639-2:1998 (T) Alpha3 codes – terminology codes	ISO 639-3:2007 Alpha 3 codes for comprehensive coverage of languages
Croatian language	**hr**	**scr – *change to hrv***	**hrv**	**hrv (ID)**
Serbian language	**sr**	**scc – *change to srp***	**srp**	**srp (ID)**

It is evident that all codes for our languages are harmonized, except the codes in ISO 639-2 (B). Our great interest is to change the codes 639-2(B) and to have the same codes in all parts of ISO 639 standard. It will contribute to the improvement of our databases and enable the effective exchange of bibliographic records between our countries and our catalogs. It is important also at the global level for all libraries and organizations (as OCLC) which can resolve many problems in their catalogs with these new codes, same as in other parts of ISO 639 standard.

We hope that you will consider our request seriously and that your decision will be positive and for the benefit of all our four institutions.

Zagreb, Belgrade, 2008-04-07

Mr. Tihomil Maštrović, PhD
Director
National and University Library
Zagreb 10000
Ul. Hrvatske bratske zajednice 4 p.p. 550

Mr. Sreten Ugričić
Director
National Library of Serbia
Belgrade 11000
Skerlićeva 1

Mr. Dragutin Funda, PhD
Director
Croatian Standards Institute
Zagreb 10000
Ulica grada Vukovara 78

Mr. Ivan Krstić
Acting Director
Institute for Standardization of Serbia
Belgrade 11030
Stevana Brakusa 2